

# Management of Small Docks and Piers

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# **Management of Small Docks and Piers**

## **Forward**

Coastal managers are faced with a wide range of issues. One recent topic of particular concern is the increasing number of small, private, primarily residential docks. In making permitting decisions or developing policy, managers have indicated that they lack:

- Solid scientific information about impacts of individual docks,
- An ability to quantify and evaluate cumulative impacts from groups of small docks, and
- Information about regulatory and non-regulatory options to address the impacts at the local and state level.

In response to these concerns, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) undertook several actions that resulted in this workbook and the associated PowerPoint presentations. The topics addressed herein grew from two national, invitational workshops hosted by NCCOS and OCRM:

- In January 2003 scientists and coastal managers met to summarize what is known about small dock impacts on the environment, navigation, and the visual landscape—and areas requiring further study.
- In November 2003 a group of coastal managers met to identify their needs regarding the regulatory and non-regulatory tools and techniques available that can be applied to permit reviews of small docks as well as planning and policy development.

One result of these workshops is the following workbook and a complementary set of PowerPoint presentations. These modules provide:

- An introduction to the issues related to small dock and pier impacts and management,
- A review of environmental impacts,
- A review of impacts to navigation and public access,
- A review of visual impacts,
- A review of regulatory and non-regulatory techniques that can be used in small dock management,
- A summary of Best Management Practices available for small dock management, and
- Sources for additional information and assistance.

These modules are designed to stand alone as individual presentations or be used in sequence as part of a larger workshop or conference. While developed with a national perspective, the slide presentations were designed to allow modification to suit local or regional audiences. Modifications may include additional or different case studies or graphics of local interest. Users of these training materials should feel free to insert, add, delete, or rearrange the slides as needed to emphasize issues of local importance or de-emphasize those that are not.

Copies of the workbook and PowerPoint presentations may be downloaded from NOAA's Dock and Pier Management website at <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/dock>.

